

Abroad

MEXICO, D.F.

CARDENAS RIDING HIGH

The next general election will take place in July 1964, but already the campaign winds are blowing strong. Under Mexico's de facto one-party system, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional has never come close to losing an election for forty years, but bitter internal struggles often take place among its factions and personalities. The aggravating factor this time is ex-President Lázaro Cárdenas, who, with Moscow's eager and massive support, is mobilizing the left of the Left on numerous fronts. He is identified with the newly formed Independent Farmers' Center, which is stirring up the peasants, and the National Freedom Movement, long openly tied to Moscow. In speeches, letters to the press and printed propaganda, Gen. Cárdenas assails the Yanquis, praises Castro, repeats the Kremlin's current slogans, especially attacks anti-Communists, and turns "defense of the sovereignty and inde-



pendence of Mexico" into a phrase meaning: "Mexico, Go Castro!" His political line is being skilfully furthered by the Kremlin's most sophisticated (and elegantly disguised) journalistic operation in Latin America: the weekly illustrated *Siempre*, which is being subsidized at a rate of \$50,000 a month.

AUCKLAND

SUKARNO'S SHADOW

Sir Leslie Munro, long a principal figure in New Zealand's foreign service as ambassador and UN chief delegate, has resigned from his present post as Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists. In a statement before leaving Geneva, he declared his intention to return home "to enter public life," and the reason he gave expressed a rising concern of many of his countrymen: "It is the duty of a man with such experience as I

have to offer to help. The problems of New Zealand are not purely economic because she is confronted as well by the expansionism of Indonesia. It is true that the ambitions of Indonesia affect Australia immediately more than they do New Zealand, but in the long run my country too is involved."

NAIROBI

UHURU AND TROUBLE AHEAD

Under an agreement negotiated by Duncan Sandys, British Commonwealth and Colonial Secretary, and the Kenya Council of Ministers, Kenya will attain self-government through elections to be held May 18-26. The governmental bodies will of course be black, in the seven provinces and in the national legislature. Full independence is expected to follow early in 1964. Besides the Mau Mau legacy, unresolved disputes between centralists and federationists, the dark prospects of the White Highlands, and ferocious inter-tribal antipathies, Kenya faces two acute and immediate problems: the determination of the Somalis, who are the majority in the northeastern area (now established as the North Frontier District), to secede and fuse with their fellow tribesmen in Somalia to the north—a determination fully backed by Somalia, which threatens war, but adamantly opposed by Ethiopia, which also threatens war; and the bloody conflict between the Arabs of the coastal strip of Zanzibar, who, for the sake of their skins, want to keep some sort of special status under British protection, and Kenya's African leaders, who insist that Zanzibar and its inhabitants will have to knuckle under.

GENEVA

NUCLEAR NEUTRALITY

The present population of Switzerland is approximately 5,300,000. Nuclear shelters already built or under construction provide for 1,500,000 persons. The legislature has just voted a program to provide additional shelters for 2,500,000, covering in all some 80% of the people.

BERLIN

RECESS EXTENDED

For a number of months the pressure has been off of the Berlin and indeed the entire German problem. Presumably this has been the result, in part, of the absorption of the players' energies by Cuba, China, de Gaulle and the Near East. But another factor seems to be a recognition by all parties concerned that no one has the least idea what to do about Berlin and Germany; and that therefore the best solution is to do nothing. The Canadian, Roy Thompson, now Britain's largest publisher, reported after a recent trip to Moscow that Khrushchev had told him it was plainly impossible to reunite Germany because the West won't accept a Communist Germany and the Soviet Union won't accept a capitalist Germany; so things will just have to go along more or less as is. The Russians want to hold bilateral Russo-American talks on Berlin; and these are slated to begin soon, though in a low-keyed mode, probably in Washington. Some sort of formula for shifting to a "UN presence," possibly including Anglo-American-French troops wearing blue helmets, will be mulled over.

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